

Birthdays

Kevin Defeo 8/2
Dale Bilbrey 8/3
Jason Bonniger 8/4
Joe Bell 8/6
Wesley Slager 8/8
Jeremy Spivey 8/12
Wayne Reed 8/14
Karl Daigle 8/15
Ryan Battle 8/18
Jamie Bigelow 8/20
Raymond Smith 8/20
Steve Ellison 8/23
David Branch 8/28

**Now Accepting
Applications for the
Citizens Fire
Academy!!!**



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[www.murfreesborotn.gov
/fireacademy](http://www.murfreesborotn.gov/fireacademy)
For more details!

MEET MFRD'S 10 NEW FIREFIGHTERS

Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department welcomed 10 new Firefighters on July 11.

Samuel Bennett, Joshua Byrd, Beau Doss, Matthew Henry, Dustin Holman, Dustin Hopper, Davis Sanders, Samuel Spear, Thomas Steele, and James Strader recently completed their three-week orientation and are now on shift.

"With 65-plus years combined experience in the fire service, these firefighters will be a great asset to our department," said Fire Rescue Chief Mark Foulks.

Nine of the 10 were hired in anticipation of the opening of Fire Station 10 on Veterans Parkway July 31. Another vacancy became available after a retirement in the department.

"These gentleman are now a part of the MFRD family," said Chief Foulks. "I look forward to working with them, and watching them progress in their careers."



Pictured (L to R): Beau Doss, Davis Sanders, Dustin Hopper, Thomas Steele, James Strader, Samuel Bennett, Joshua Byrd, Matthew Henry, Samuel Spear, and Dustin Holman.

Samuel Bennett, Paramedic

3 years in the fire service
Married to Ginny
Enjoys spending time with his family and dogs, going to the gym, and woodworking.
Looks forward to: Being able to work with great people near his home.

Joshua Byrd, Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)

5 years in the fire service
Married to Gina with children Landon (7) and Adyson (4)
Enjoys spending time with family and friends and participating in outdoor activities.
Looks forward to: Helping the community, receiving training to better himself and the quality of service he will be able to provide, and experiencing the brother and sisterhood at MFRD.

NEW FIREFIGHTERS CONTINUED...

Beau Doss, AEMT

7 years in the fire service

Married to Bea

Enjoys outdoor activities, working out, and studying fire service subject matter.

Looks forward to: Serving the citizens of Murfreesboro (where he was born and raised) and gaining as much knowledge and experience as he can to be the best Firefighter he can be!

Matthew Henry, Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)

3.5 years in the fire service

Enjoys working out, fire service training, spending time with family and friends, and participating in outdoor activities.

Looks forward to: Learning as much as possible and advancing his career.



Dustin Holman, AEMT

6 years in the fire service

Married to Courtney with son Thatcher Brooks (2 weeks old)

Enjoys hunting, fishing, sports, and any hobby that involves spending time with his family.

Looks forward to: "After spending six years in the Marine Corps, I am looking most forward to the teamwork and making friends."

Dustin Hopper, EMR

4 years in the fire service

Enjoys hunting, shooting, fishing, and spending time with family and friends.

Looks forward to: "Serving with an awesome group of highly motivated individuals, running a large amount of calls, and learning as much as I possibly can."

Davis Sanders, EMR

9 years in the fire service

Daughter Kaitlin Sanders

Enjoys sports, weightlifting, fishing, camping, blacksmithing, Jiu Jitsu, Mixed Martial Arts, and spending time with Kaitlin.

Looks forward to: "The experience of the department and staff, the training and call volume, the chance to put my training to good use, and most of all the culture and extended family."

Samuel Spear, Paramedic

12 years in the fire service

Married to Angela with children Enoch, Elijah, and Eden

Enjoys music

Looks forward to: Serving the community with professionalism while developing new relationships with the fire department family.

He adds, "I appreciate the opportunity and look forward to serving my new community." (Spear came to MFRD from Colorado!)

Thomas Steele, Paramedic

14 years in the fire service

Daughter Kallie

Enjoys mountain biking, motorcycles, SCUBA, and hiking.

Looks forward to: "The family concept of the agency with leadership that supports and builds up employees."

James Strader, EMR

Approximately 2 years in the fire service

Married to Alex with son Deklan

Enjoys anything outdoor related, camping, riding, swimming, hunting, shooting, 4-wheeling, and sports.

Looks forward to: Serving the community which served him as a "youngster." "I grew up in Murfreesboro and had many great opportunities. I appreciate the individuals that made that happen for me, and I'm excited that now, I will be in a role that will allow me to do this for others."

He adds, "I love my God, my family, and my community and I look forward to serving with the 'best of the best!'"

To see more of the New Firefighter Training watch the [NEWSBREAK](#) from CityTV!

MFRD CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING OF FIRE STATION 10

After much anticipation, Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department was finally able to celebrate the Grand Opening of Fire Station 10 located at 2563 Veterans Parkway on August 1.

The station went online and was fully operational on Sunday, July 31 at 7:00 am.

City Council approved the addition of 18 new Firefighters for Fiscal Year 2017 to staff the station and fill other vacancies within the department.

The Veterans Parkway station was completed in 2009, but due to declining growth over the last several years and lack of potential call volume in the area, it has not been occupied. MFRD has used the building for training and equipment staging to this point. The station will now service Veterans Parkway and the entire area of the city west of Interstate 24.



“Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue has anticipated the opening of this station for many years,” said Fire Rescue Chief Mark Foulks. “We are excited to offer the citizens and visitors in that area our elite fire, rescue, and medical services.”

Many city and county dignitaries were in attendance. The opening was also attended by several MFRD employees and other public safety partners.

Fire Rescue Chief Mark Foulks addressed the crowd before introducing Assistant City Manager Jim Crumley and then Mayor Shane McFarland. An unorthodox ribbon

cutting then took place...Engine 10 drove through fire scene tape stretched across the opening of the bay door.

The event was streamed live on Facebook, with a total of 48 viewers during the ceremony. It has since been viewed almost 4,000 times and shared by over 30 followers!

To see more about the Grand Opening of the station, watch the [NEWSBREAK](#) from CityTV!

**PHOTOS COURTESY OF
JIM DAVIS**
*Photographer with
Murfreesboro Parks and
Recreation*



"FIREFIGHTERS, WEDDINGS, & BABIES...OH MY!"



*Alan & April Jakes
Married July 1, 2016
Myrtle Beach*

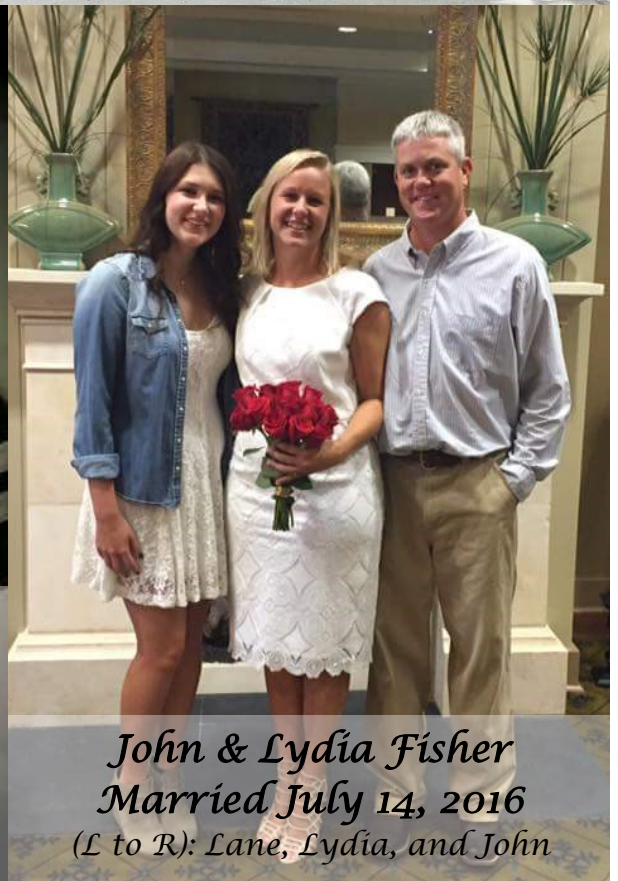


*Greg & Mechele Burt
Married July 4, 2016
(L to R): Nathan, Samantha, Zhalen, Carrick, Chase, Greg,
Mechele, Katrina, Leeah, Quinlin. Not pictured: Kenny,
Brittany, and Sheryl.*



*Gunner Scott & Aubrey Hope Tramel
Born June 23, 2016
Parents: Sean Tramel & Stephanie Wright
Grandparents: Jeff (MFRD) & Nicole Wright*

**The twins were born at 28 weeks old. They are now 34 weeks old. They are still at Vanderbilt, but will hopefully be healthy enough to come home at the end of August.*



*John & Lydia Fisher
Married July 14, 2016
(L to R): Lane, Lydia, and John*

“FIREFIGHTERS, WEDDINGS, AND BABIES...OH MY” CONTINUED...



*Virginia Kate “Ginnie Kate”
Martin*

Born July 9, 2016

Parents: Chase (MFRD) and Megan

*6 pounds/11.5 ounces
18 1/4” long*

MFRD DRIVER MIKE MITCHELL RETIRES AFTER 29 YEARS

Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department Driver Michael “Mike” Mitchell hung up his helmet July 7 after 29 years of service.

Mitchell began his career at MFRD as a Firefighter in November 1987. He credits Retired City Manager Clyde Fite for the chance to serve his community. “He is the one who encouraged me to submit an application,” said Mitchell.

Promoted to Driver in November 2000, Mitchell says the greatest things about working for MFRD are the friendships he has made and the opportunity to protect the lives and property of Murfreesboro residents. In 1988, there was a fire at LeBeau Chateau Apartments. Mitchell will never forget that call.

“I carried a man out of his burning apartment,” Mitchell recalls, a move that saved the man’s life.

Perhaps the biggest changes Mitchell has seen over the years are the growth in the department, the level of professionalism, and the introduction of medical services. When asked what he anticipates for the department in the next 10-15 years, he replied, “The continuous professional and technical training will put MFRD as one of the top Fire and Rescue departments in the state of Tennessee.”

Mitchell is very grateful to the other MFRD Firefighters (past and present) that helped him over the span of his career. “I could not have made it without each and every one of them.”

He also reflected on his earlier days in life, particularly a time when a teacher he had at Oakland High School looked him right in the eyes and said, “Son, you’ll never see your 25th birthday if you keep down the path you are headed.”

“Little did she know, Jesus had his umbrella over me even when I didn’t know him,” said an emotional Mitchell. That umbrella he speaks of is the love and support of his brother and sister Firefighters and his family. “Joining the MFRD has been one of the best blessings of my life.”

Post-retirement, Mitchell plans to spend more time with family. “I’m going to assist in caring for my ailing mother,” he said, and also added, “and whatever my wife asks me to!”

Fire Rescue Chief Mark Foulks had this to say about Mitchell’s retirement, “We absolutely wish Mike the best of luck in his retirement. We appreciate his many years of faithful service to his community and are delighted that he will be able to spend more time with his first family now, though this MFRD family will miss him greatly!”



TAILBOARD TOPICS: JULY ANSWER

Q. What does P.A.R. stand for?

A. Personnel Accountability Report

P A R

[Tailboard Topics]

Q. What is the difference between a knot and a hitch?

RUTHERFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES OFFER SAFETY TIPS FOR KAYAKERS

It's no secret that Tennessee is having one of the hottest summers we have had in a while. When it is this hot, there is little relief, but some choose local water ways as a means of cooling off.

With an increase in incidents involving kayaks, Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue and LaVergne Fire Department have partnered to offer water safety information.

"Many use kayaks for fishing, exercising, and often times just to enjoy the outdoors," said LaVergne Fire Department Assistant Chief Chris Clark. "Some are experienced," he added, "but the recreational activity is growing in interest, and more and more inexperienced kayakers are taking to the water."

"Whether experienced or not, there are some important tips we would like to offer kayakers--and others who participate in water activities in general--," said Fire Rescue Chief Mark Foulks.

The next time you head out on the water, consider the following safety tips:

- **Never forget your U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket! This is the law.**
- **Waterproof your phone.** Many inexpensive protective phone cases are available. If you do not have a phone case, try a plastic seal-tight bag, such as a "Ziploc.". This is also a good place for a wallet and flashlight.
- **Tell a family member or a friend where you are going and when you plan to return.** "Plan your paddling and paddle your plan."
- **Always pack a flashlight.** Even if you have a plan accordingly, darkness could fall.



- **When in the river and lakes, watch for motorized boats.** Motorized boaters may find it difficult to see smaller kayaks.
- **Be very careful in current.** An inexperienced kayaker can quickly find themselves pinned against trees or rocks. Many times if kayaker cannot maneuver quickly, they can also find themselves in the water. If this is the case, swim to shore quickly. You can retrieve the kayak later or have another boater fetch the kayak for you. *Keep in mind that swimming in open waters is not the same as swimming in a pool. You need to be aware of uneven surfaces and river currents, especially after heavy rains and rising waters.
- **Stay away from low-dams! Public Safety personnel refer them to "HUMAN WASHING MACHINES."**
- **Never dive into rivers and lakes, especially if you are unfamiliar with the depth or what might be hidden under the surface.** There could be rocks, logs, and other sharp objects.
- **As the summer ends and the fall begins, have extra clothes packed.** As the water and air temps cool, hypothermia can become possible. Water and air temperature below 70 degrees can mean trouble if you find yourself wet in this climate for a period of time.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 7...

TWO PERSONNEL NAMED FIREFIGHTER OF THE MONTH

Captain Raymond “Bubba” Smith and Engineer Samuel Benford have both been named Firefighter of the Month for August 2016.

The two received the honors for separate incidents in which they displayed compassion for others, and in Benford’s case, he also saved a life!

Smith was nominated by his Engineer Ronnie Nobles. According to Nobles, while on a call in June, Smith and the crew encountered a lady who was down on her luck. She was trying to make her way back to Mississippi with her two small children and did not have the funds available to travel. Smith, obviously touched by the woman’s story and the tears streaming down her face, took out his wallet and gave her some money to assist with her journey. Nobles exclaimed, “What a nice thing he did!”

Smith has been with MFRD since October 1997.



Benford was nominated by several of his co-workers who discovered that while on a family vacation, he saved a young man from drowning. The story goes as follows:

Sam Benford and his family went to Destin, FL to see his daughter get married (July 7). On the evening of July 3, he and wife Shaunder were around the swimming pool with their grandchildren and witnessed a young man continuously going under the water. At first they thought he was playing, but Shaunder quickly realized that he was not and asked Sam to go help. Sam quickly jumped into the water, pulled the young man to safety, and shortly he began coughing up water. He thanked Sam for saving his life. Shaunder said, "I truly believe Sam was this man's guardian angel and he is definitely my hero!"

Benford has been with the department since June 1985.

“Both gentleman are excellent employees. They are dedicated to serving their communities with pride, compassion, and professionalism. I am truly proud of both of them and the way our department is reflected as a direct result of their actions,” said Fire Rescue Chief Mark Foulks.



SAFETY TIPS FOR KAYAKERS CONTINUED...

“Many kayakers do not think about having their cell phone with them,” said Chief Foulks, “but as we discovered in an incident in earlier July, it can prove to be very useful.”

On a hot July Saturday, Camille Jones, her husband, and her father-in-law decided to go kayaking on the Stones River. They put in at the Manson Pike Trailhead and had smooth sailing, until the current overtook Jones and pushed her kayak into a tree. It began to fill with water. Luckily, Jones was in a grove and able to stand while waiting for rescuers. Her husband, Scott, used his cell phone to “Google Map” her location for dispatchers, making it much easier for responders to locate her.

“We just want to spread the word that while kayaking and other water related activities can be enjoyable, there are safety concerns to be mindful of as well,” said Chief Clark.



Jones with MFRD personnel after her rescue. (L to R): Clay Walls, Matt Welcome, Jones, and John Fisher.

In 2014, MFRD and Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation created a Public Service Announcement to issue water safety messages and give alternative safe ways to enjoy summer: <https://youtu.be/N7B4AZbO1ck>.

If you would like more information on water safety, please contact Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Monday-Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm 615-893-1422 or LaVergne Fire Department at 615-427-1486.

“One common goal of all fire departments is to equip their communities with useful safety information,” said Foulks. “We want you to enjoy your summer activities, but we want you to enjoy them for years to come!”

48TH ANNUAL TENNESSEE FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE HELD IN MURFREESBORO

Fire service personnel from all over the state visited Murfreesboro July 9-12 for the 48th Annual Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association (TFCA) Conference at Embassy Suites.

This was the TFCA's first conference in Murfreesboro. Many of MFRD's personnel assisted with registration and the exhibit hall, which uniquely was held indoors. Several vendors and fire apparatus were on display in the hotel's Grand Ballroom. "In contrast to years past, having the indoor exhibit seemed to

attract more visitors," said Fire Rescue Chief Mark Foulks. "Attendees and vendors were able to stay cool in the hot July weather."

MFRD's Fire Chaplain Lee Douglas participated in the Memorial service. The service was followed by the opening ceremonies for the conference.

MFRD's Honor Guard presented colors and Mayor Shane McFarland and Chief Foulks

spoke on behalf of the City and the department.

For more information about the conference, watch the [NEWSBREAK](#) from CityTV!



August Anniversaries

30 YEARS

Tony Lehew

26 YEARS

Mike Adams
Jimmy Barrett
Marshall King
Rob Vaughter
Clay Walls

25 YEARS

Terrence Thomas

17 YEARS

Bobby Brewer

16 YEARS

Anthony Cayll
Paul Diawara
Doug English
Chris Mikolon

1 YEAR

Mark Foulks
Cory Friend
Logan Gill
Matt Tidwell
Betsy Welcome

9/11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue, Murfreesboro Police Department, Rutherford County Sheriff's Department, Rutherford County Emergency Medical Services, Rutherford County Fire-Rescue, and Middle Tennessee State University's ROTC will host a 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony on September 9, 2016 at 9:00 am on the public square. View this [promo](#) for more details.



NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

At McFadden Community Center to discuss the Public Safety Training Facility (former site of Franklin Heights Public Housing)

**Monday,
August 22
6-8pm**